and a second end thereof, a recess extending circumferentially about an outer surface of said wall of said first member, and an outwardly extending annular flange unitarily formed with said first end; and

a second member for retaining a thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said second member having a generally cylindrical wall which [completely surrounds said wall] extends from said annular flange of said first member to said second end of said wall of said first member when said members are assembled together, and a circumferentially extending bead projecting from an inner surface of said wall of said second member, said second member's bead adapted and constructed so as to fit within the recess of said first member;

wherein, when said first and second members are assembled to retain the thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said bead on said inner surface of said wall of second member slides along said outer surface of said wall of said first member and pulls an overhanging portion of the thin film down around said outer surface of said wall of said first member thereby progressively increasing the tautness of the thin film extending across the second end of the first member, the tautness of the film being maintained when said bead enters said recess and locks the first and second members together.

24. (AMENDED) The cup assembly according to claim 21, further comprising gripping means on an outer surface of said

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wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

26.(AMENDED) A cup assembly for holding a sample to be analyzed spectrochemically, comprising:

a first member forming a sample cell, said first member having a generally cylindrical wall which extends between a first end and a second end thereof, and an outwardly extending annular flange unitarily formed with said first end;

a second member having a generally cylindrical wall which [completely surrounds said wall] <u>extends from said annular flange</u> of said first member <u>to said second end of said wall of said first member</u> when said members are assembled together; and

film retaining means associated with said wall of each of said first and second members, for progressively increasing the tautness of a thin film placed across the second end of said first member,

wherein, when said first and second members are assembled to retain the thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said film retaining means associated with each of said walls pulls an overhanging portion of the thin film down around said wall of said first member thereby progressively increasing the tautness of the thin film extending across the second end of the first member.

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31.(AMENDED) The cup assembly according to claim 26, further comprising gripping means on an outer surface of said wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

33.(AMENDED) A cup assembly for holding a sample to be analyzed spectrochemically, comprising:

a first member forming a sample cell, said first member having a generally cylindrical wall which extends between a first end and a second end thereof, and an outwardly extending annular flange unitarily formed with said first end;

a second member having a generally cylindrical wall which [completely surrounds said wall] extends from said annular flange of said first member to said second end of said wall of said first member when said members are assembled together; and

gripping means on an outer surface of said wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

REMARKS

Claims 21-40 are pending in the application.

Claims 21-40 stand rejected.

Claims 21, 24, 26, 31, 33 have been amended herein.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

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